



# THE MAINE FARMER: AN

# AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

**The Maine Farmer.**

Augusta, Saturday, Feb. 26, 1870.

## TERMS OF THE MAINE FARMER.

\$2.00 in advance, or \$2.50 to post within three months of the date of subscription.

These terms will be rigidly adhered to in all cases.

All payments made by subscribers to the Farmer will be creditable in accordance with our new mailing method.

The printed date upon the paper, in connection with the subscriber's name, will show the time to which he had paid, and will constitute, in all cases, a valid receipt for money remitted by him.

Any subscriber desiring to change the post office address of his paper must communicate to us the name of the office to which it has previously been sent, otherwise we shall be unable to comply with his request.

## COLLECTOR'S NOTICE.

Mr. V. Darrow will call on our subscribers in York County during the months of December and January.

Mr. S. N. Tress will call subscribers in Kennebec county during the months of January and February.

Mr. S. L. Pease will call upon subscribers in West Somerset, during the months of January and February.

## The Ninth Census.

The researches of the Congressional Committee appointed to devise an improved plan for taking the next census of the United States, have disclosed to the people the very gratifying and highly important information that there is in existence an authentic account of a census ordained by the Emperor Yee of China, in the year 2042 B. C., some half a dozen centuries before that of Moses and the Israelites. It is to be regretted that those learned gentlemen were unable to give us the results of that census, and tell us how much the Empire had improved since the time when Satan is represented by Milton as descending in his flight "on the barren plains of Serica, where *Chinâ* drives their canary wagons," &c. But although they did not extend their investigations further than that direction it was doubtless very largely to the valuable suggestions derived from Yee's method of taking the census, that the Committee were able to report the very practical and economical scheme which received its quietus at the hands of the Senate by a vote of forty-six to nine.

The law of 1850, which has sustained itself through two trials, is therefore still in force. If the Committee had employed less time in their archeological researches, and devised such practical modifications of the present law, it would have enabled us to get the enumeration of the population of the country before the next election, and secured the publication of the other more important statistical fact before they were entirely out of date, they would have conferred a greater benefit upon the public. Too much time has been wasted, and at least allowed, heretofore in taking and publishing the census. The main report of 1850 was not published until 1855, and a volume relating to one department was deferred until 1859. So, too, in the census of 1850, the complete reports on population and agriculture were delayed until 1864, while those on manufactures and mortality did not appear until 1866, when the people had already begun to look forward to another census.

It is true that the new bill contemplated an improvement in this respect; but the plan of remedying the defect involved such a radical change in all the schedules of inquiry, and in the manner of taking and issuing the census, that the Senate regarded it as an experiment which would be sluggish to expense for trial at the present time. It is said that the household's schedule, one of the benefits of the new bill, would have alone cost \$1,729,000, and then there would be but little assurance of correctness in all the details. It is true that the art of census-taking has been advancing and that statistics are now classed in the catalogues of sciences. But the law of 1850 was framed by some of the ablest minds in the country, and was designed to adapt itself to the exigencies of the country during its future growth and development. The friends of the new bill claimed that it would give a census approximating in accuracy and comprehensiveness to the most scientific census of Europe. But a vast deal of the public money may be expended in collecting statistical facts which could never be of any possible use to the public. It is believed that the general heads under which the articles were arranged in the schedules of the old law were sufficiently comprehensive to embrace all the subjects that a census ought to recognize. The cost of a census under the provisions of this law can be estimated almost exactly, and with slight modifications in the manner of procuring competent officers can gather up all the facts the people and the government require without entering upon an entirely new plan, the cost of which cannot possibly be estimated.

Those who have had experience as census-takers tell us that among classes not well informed in regard to such matters they experience a difficulty in getting the desired information on account of a prevailing fear that some special tax or increase of taxation will result from their disclosures. If separate schedules could be distributed in advance of the census-taker's visit, so that the terrified citizen might have an opportunity to consider, or ascertain from his better-informed neighbor, precisely what was wanted and for what purpose it was wanted, much time would be saved and greater accuracy secured.

Under the existing law the United States Marshal for each State or District, is the superintendent of the census. All the subordinate officers will be appointed by him upon the recommendation of his deputies and other reliable parties. In view of the fact that it will be desirable to get the returns as early as possible, the field allotted to each officer will not, probably, embrace more than a representative district in any case, while each town of any considerable size will have its own officers. There is a popular notion that it is a question of efficiency cannot possibly arise in making these appointments; and it is true that no professional skill or high order of talent is required for it. But it requires a man of good understanding, business experience and methodical habits to make the returns in proper form.

With the law modified as above suggested and with competent officers in every representative district in the United States, the people might soon have before them the results of the ninth census.

**A VETERAN AT THE CAPITOL.**—A few days since in the House of Representatives at Washington, Gen. Banks called the attention of the Speaker to the presence on the floor of John Fitz of Pennsylvania, a veteran of the wars of the Revolution and 1812. Mr. Banks moved that Mr. Fitz be allowed the privilege of the floor, and the motion was agreed to. Mr. Banks stated that Fitz was 107 years old and was present at the surrender of Cornwallis. After his presence on the floor was announced the old gentleman held quite a levee. He looked as though he would wear some longer.

**Mr. Horace Dodd.**—Proprietor of one of the best established and reliable newspaper advertising agencies in New England has removed from his old quarters, 23 Congress street, Boston, to 121 Washington street, where advertisers will find it for their advantage to call on him. Our business relations with Mr. Dodd have ever been of the most satisfactory character, and we most cheerfully commend him to the favorable notice of the advertising public.

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**The question of the uniformity of text books received its quietus in the Senate on Wednesday, by a decisive vote. We have a higher opinion than ever of the good sense of this branch of our "assembled wisdom" and trust to have the privilege of complimenting the lower House for a similar compliment.**

**A correspondent of the Oxford *Democrat* says that at the recent burning of the Whittemore schoolhouse, Paris, the conduct of four boys was worthy of much praise. By their daring and energy, they saved all the books, seals, doors, stove, and most of the windows.**

## Destructive Winter Freshet on the Kennebec.

We were visited on Sunday last with one of the heaviest and most destructive freshets which has ever occurred on the Kennebec river. A powerful southeastern rain storm commenced on Friday morning, continuing with unabated violence until Saturday noon, followed in the afternoon by a slight fall of snow. The rain storm extended all over the State, but the damage to property in other sections, so far as we can learn, has been very slight compared to that of Kennebec. The water commenced rising slowly on Saturday afternoon, but no especial danger seems to have been apprehended, as it was thought the ice in the river was strong enough to withstand the force of the current, even if it continued to rise during the night. But the immense quantity of rain which had fallen, added to the large body of snow on the ground, which was almost entirely carried off, contributed so vast a volume to the unusually swollen condition of the river, that nothing could resist its power.

On Sunday morning at an early hour it was found that the ice at this place had broken up and was passing down towards Hallowell, where it commenced forming an immense jam across the river from Shepard's point to the opposite shore. The water began to flow back rapidly, rising in this city and Hallowell to a height of eighteen or twenty feet above the usual level, flooding the basements and lower stories of the stores on Water street and Hallowell and sweeping away and demolishing many dwellings, compelling the inmates to flee to their lives, in numerous instances without time to save furniture or other valuable property. About half past ten the ice began to break up above the dam, and came down in huge masses, sweeping past the city, and stopping in its course only when it reached the jam which had already formed at Hallowell. For a few minutes, the railroad bridge, across the river offered a feeble resistance to the terrible pressure from above, but at length the ice piled against one of the centre piers forced the bridge to a terrible crash, the old bridge quivering with the fierce shock, but keeping steadfast upon its feet, and gallantly resisting the attack, until the floating span was forced under and borne onward to mingle its broken timbers with the ice jam below. A few minutes afterwards, another span of the railroad bridge gave way, striking in its descent the pier of the old bridge, giving it another severe shock, and breaking some of the braces and timbers below, but leaving it still comparatively firm upon its foundations. The jam still continues, and is made up of huge fragments of ice, logs, bridge trusses, and building. It extends from Stell Mill Point to Augusta, a distance of three miles, and is one solid, compact mass, borne with such force against the Kennebec bridge, that it was feared that the chimney of her dwelling came down with a crash. The remaining span of the Hallowell bridge was swept away and carried down to nearly opposite Leigh's wharf. The losses to the citizens of Hallowell are not less than \$50,000. Many poor families have lost their all. Bodwell & Wilson are the heaviest losers, and their loss is from \$5000 to \$8000, besides many valuable papers. Masters, Smith & Co. loss several thousand dollars. Nearly every merchant has suffered.

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